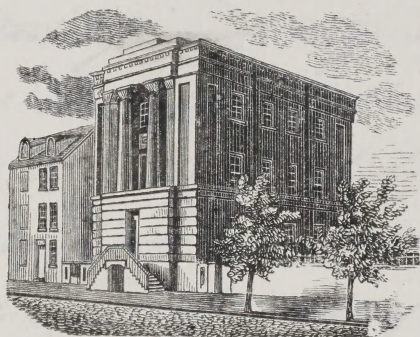


AN ESSAY ON

Intermittent Fever.

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED TO THE FACULTY OF THE



HOMOEOPATHIC MEDICAL COLLEGE

OF PENNSYLVANIA,

For the Degree of Doctor of Medicine.

*On the 23rd day of January, Eighteen Hundred and
Fifty-six.*

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There is perhaps no disease to which
the human family is heir, so imper-
fectly understood as intermittent
fever, though none more common
to some sections of our country,
and certainly not any upon which
we find so great a diversity of
opinions among pathological writers.
It is a subject upon which there
has been much said of late.

particularly by writers of the Homoeop-
athic School of Medicine. We are
some what unlike our brothers of
the old school. We are not satisfied
with their old Esculapian theory,
and particularly their success in the
treatment of this disease. We
seek for something more reliable

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And by unceasing study investigation
close observation of nature's laws. And
discussion. we shall find that which
we seek. Good results must follow
from thorough investigations.

Theories and systems that are not
well supported by truth. cannot stand
the test. they must be forgotten though
they be antiquated. must be so because
them because of their age.

It is impossible to establish general
rules for the treatment of inter-
mittent fever. No disease of so
frequent occurrence is encountered
with so much difficulty. not that
the law. Similia Similibus Curan-
tur by which we are governed
in the treatment of disease. is

wanting in efficacy. in the treatment of this peculiar disease.

Not that the system lacks the means of exactness, can provided they are properly chosen, but in selecting the specific antidotes. requires a degree of knowledge. and precise discrimination not always possessed by the physician. and which can only be acquired by studying thoroughly the Mat. Med.

But let us look for a moment at the peculiar characteristics of this disease. of which the most prominent one is expressed by its name. We have all the phenomena of fever

Making their appearance at certain periods. And then disappearing. leaving an interval in which the constitution seems to be in the normal state. And continues so until the super-vention of another attack. We shall define intermittent fever as a primitive or essential fever. comprised of many paroxysms. which recur at certain periods. and in the intervals between which we have a state of quiescence or freedom from fever. This definition may be to a certain degree imperfect for we meet with examples of this disease in which the periods of attack. are by no means regular

or certain. and the state of the
 apyrexia between the paroxysms
 not well marked. Again we
 may have intermittent fever from
 lesions of various kinds.

For instance we may have a fever of
 an intermittent character, not
 essential. but depending upon a
 local lesion. as in that which
 attends such cases of stricture and
 retention of urine. which has
 been termed urinary fever.

We are as yet unable to account
 for the cause of this disease and
 its periodicity. which is so remark-
 able a feature of it.

We might review the miasmatic or
 malarious theory. which many

pathological matters acknowledge. But
 so yet have not proceeded in
 making it so clear as to be under-
 stood. Therefore we will decline
 handling anything which we are
 unable to lift. Leaving this for
 others to discuss. We will study the
 effects of the disease, and direct our
 attention to things within our reach.
 Intermittent fever has usually been
 divided into three stages - the cold
 the hot, and the sweating stage
 Or we may simplify, by making two stages.
 the sweating being the result of the hot
 stage. During the cold stage there is
 usually perceptible lesions of some
 one or more of the internal organs.
 and congestion of many if not all of

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the viscera of the three great cavities. In short the balance of circulation is lost. the blood forsakes the surface and accumulates in the internal organs. This condition is confirmed by an examination of the symptoms as well as of the appearances upon post-mortem. If we take up the different parts of the system and examine during the cold stage we may be able to see how far the symptoms point to an accumulation of blood. Commencing with the nervous system. the patient complains of more or less headache, attended with stupor, coma, and even convulsions. indicating a congested condition of the brain. and confirmed by

dissection. Now let us look at the pulmonary system during this stage. And we will find hurried breathing, cough, anxiety, and dulness on percussion, evidences of engorgement, and confirmed by dissection. The action of the heart is also oppressed, pulse small and irregular. In the abdominal cavity there is also symptoms indicating the same condition.

Vomiting, diarrhoea, &c.

The spleen also becomes very much tumefied and enlarged. Baillie gives accounts of cases of rupture of the spleen from excessive congestion during the cold stage of ague. Some writers have contended that the congested and enlarged

spleen was the whole pathology of inter-
mittent fever. We cannot conceive
of there being any closer connection
between the enlarged spleen and
intermittent fever than there is
between any other organ. There cert-
ainly cannot be any separate rela-
tion between the enlargement of
this organ and the ~~pathology~~ ^{production}
of intermittent fever.

Still difficulties are sometimes,
and too often, surmounted in this
way. Attributing difficult or unknown
causes to an abnormal condition.

of an organ whose natural functions
are as yet unknown. Perhaps attention
has been more frequently directed to
this organ from the fact that its

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lesions are more manifest than
those of other viscera. It receives
when in its normal condition a
great quantity of blood. it being
composed of a loose spongy tissue.
it becomes rapidly enlarged,
and congested, and consequently
a very prominent sign of the
disease. In the last stage of the
disease all the phenomena that we
have just examined are reversed.
Everything indicates that the energy
of the circulation is about being
restored. And there is a powerful
determination of blood to the
surface. The pulse rises in
strength, and the coldness grad-
ually disappears. The skin which was

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cold and shivered, become hot and
tense; face flushed; the cough and
hurried respiration are relieved; and
the third stage, or sweating stage
follows. usually, but not invariable by
any means. The prognosis of this disease
is under Homoeopathic treatment
favorable. Still there is perhaps not
a single disease either acute or
chronic, which may not be the
result of intermittent fever.
Sometimes we have the phenomena of
intermittent fever cease, and a
continuance of a chronic state,
produced by the violence of the original
m. s. d. g. Indeed nothing is more com-
mon when intermittents are trea-
led with Quinine.

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It often do we meet with chronic diseases of the brain, heart, and lungs, which we can trace back as the results of intermittent fever, combined with heroic treatment. We think that we are safe in saying that nine tenths of the chronic non-suppurative diseases (existing in our western country, particularly) result from long continuance and injudicious treatment of this dreaded malady. We also have dysentery, diarrhoea, hepatitis, peritonitis, gastritis, and dyspepsia in all its hurried forms. All these local affections are the results of violent congestion, and continued irritation which attends

the early paroxysms of the disease.

This then is what we must dread and guard against in the treatment of intermittent fever.

We will now proceed to subjoin the internal treatment. As we have remarked, no disease requires a more careful study, in order to treat each individual case successfully, than this disease under consideration. There are many elements in the different stages of the paroxysm, and in the apyrexia, that each case constitutes a great deal of study of itself. The symptoms which are of the most importance to be considered, are generally those which

occur during the paroxysm: the character of the chill, heat, thirst &c. &c. But in some cases the symptoms of the aggravia are more important than those of the paroxysm. Then of course the remedy should be chosen in reference to these.

The remedies which are most frequently brought into use, in the treatment of this disease, are. Ars. Bell. Bry. China, Sulphate of Quinine, Capsic. Spicae. St. Murex. Sax. Corn. Puls. & Rhus Tox.^{ica}. We shall be unable to give the full indications of all the above enumerated remedies. But will be content to give the more prominent indications of a part of them.

In regard to attenuations. there is
a great diversity of opinions.

But as a general rule, we shall
prefer the low! from the first
to third. in form of titration
to be given in the apyrexia
once in three or four hours.

Taking into consideration in
the mean time. the peculiar
irritability and susceptibility
of the patient. Arsenicum.

Corresponds to a large number
of symptoms. The chills & fever are
not well marked. occurring sim-
ultaneously, or alternately. Preced-
ing the chilly stage. there is
stretching, drawing, of the limbs,
 yawning, great debility.

Between the chill and heat. restlessness.
 desire to drink often but little at a
 time. anxiety. nausea, and vomiting
 of bile. The heat is burning and
 pungent to the touch. Sweat after
 the heat. sudden prostration of strength.
 the profuse sweat in apoplexia formidabilis.
 This remedy is increasingly
 indicated if the patient is suffering
 from the abuse of Quinine,
 China, is another very valuable
 remedy but a much slower one
 In intermittents of an endemic
 character. occurring in marshy regions
 attended with languor. congestions of
 blood to the head. pain in the liver
 and spleen yellow color of the skin
 spasmodic cough great debility.

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Before the fever, great thirst, and
canine hunger. During the chilly
stage, headache, absence of thirst,
vertigo, paleness of the face, great
coldness of the hands and feet,
vomiting mucus. Between the
chill and hot stage, thirst. During
the hot stage dryness of the mouth
and lips, redness of the face,
hunger, delirium, desire for
cold drinks shuddering when
uncovered. Eruption of Erythema.
Shaking chill followed by heat
then sweat several hours. Swelling
of the lips and nails, contracted
pulse, then heat and redness of
the face, full pulse and thirst.
During the chilly stage paleness of

the face. headache, tingling in the ears. Thirst. increased appetite difficult stool and despondency.

Eupatorium is a remedy that is used a great deal in the western intermittents. Occurring generally in the morning. Thirst some hours before the chill. continues during the chill and heat. nausea from the least motion. soreness of the legs and arms. Vomiting at the termination of the chill.

The patient feels worse in the morning of one day. and the afternoon of the next. a greater amount of shivering during the chill. than is warranted by the degree of coldness. Vomiting of bile. pain in

the pit of the stomach, great
nervousness during the fever, faint-
ness from motion.

Epinephrine is a reliable remedy in
this disease and is thought of
many that ^{when} it is not entirely
homoeopathic to the condition, it
effects a favorable change, by way
of bringing out, or developing the
symptoms. When the case is an
obscure one, as it not unfrequently
is, and we are unable to deter-
mine upon what will exa-
ctly meet the condition.

The chilly stage is short with thirst
the heat great without thirst.
The paroxysm is attended with head-
ache, gastric symptoms. Bitter

Loss of food. Loss of appetite.
and debility. The indications for
this remedy are increased, if the
paroxysms have ^{been} suppressed by the
abuse of Quina.

Natrum Muraticum. Before and
after the heat violent thirst
which cannot be satisfied. & swim-
ming, tearing in the bones, blue
nails, and chattering of the teeth.
Heat and chill of nearly equal
duration. Faint in back during
the fever, an eruption on the lips.
weakness of eyes and faintness,
chilliness with great thirst, after-
wards great heat, with violent thirst,
and excessive headache, and at
last profuse sweat.

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Strychnia - is an important remedy in connection with state of the patient during the apyrexia, as well as during the paroxysm. It is indicated by a state of constipation, gastric or bilious symptoms in consequence of errors in diet, or in a nervous condition from irritation of spinal marrow, occurring usually in the afternoon or night, consisting mostly of chilliness and partial heat with or without subsequent sweat, or mostly of heat and preceded, followed or mingled with chills, with constant desire for beer or acids. During the paroxysm pains and languor of the limbs, vertigo, oppressive headache, spasmodic spasm

and pressure of the stomach, nausea
 bitter eructations. Bitter and sour taste
 white or yellow coating on the tongue.
 vomiting of ingesta. loss of appetite
 Constipation. debility, and prostration.
 During the heat vertigo, headache,
 chilliness upon movement of the
 cover, nausea, vomiting, buzzing
 in the ears, pain in the chest, and
 red urine. After the stage of
 Urine with swelling of the
 liver, legs coldness of hands and
 feet. Flueness of hands and nails,
 spotted appearance of the skin.
 Teasing pain in the legs lastly
 sweat. During the apyrexia dulness
 of the head numbness of the face
 clean or coated tongue. loss of-

lasts and appetite, patric last: sti-
 kes in the regions of the liver,
 and right side of the chest. great
 painfulness in the pit of the stom-
 ach, swelling of the spleen, and it
 does not admit of prepu-
 constipation and dry night cough
 emaciation and anguish—.

Paroxysm. the paroxysm for this
 remitt generally consist of
 chillness, followed by heat, which
 is accompanied or succeeded by
 sweat occurring generally in the
 afternoon or evening. During the
 chill: paleness of the face, vertigo,
 anxiety and oppression of the chest,
 or vomiting of mucus, freedom
 from thirst. During the heat:

there is headache with red bloated
face; rest in the face lamenting
and roaring, restless sleep,
hurried and anxious breathing.

Vomiting and diarrhoea

Intermittents after the stage of Chills.
with prevalence of gastric and
bilious symptoms. With the above
treatment. & removal of the
cause is desirable if possible which
may be done often by the patient cha-
nging the location if but a few
days distant. It usually has a satis-
fying effect.